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Security Council

Forty-seventh Year

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New York

Corrigendum

Pages 12-20

Should read

The President: I thank the Permanent Observer of Palestine for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next name inscribed on the list of speakers is that of the representative of Lebanon, on whom I now call.

Mr. Makkawi (Lebanon) *(interpretation from Arabic):* First of all, allow me to convey to you, Sir, my delegation's congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. We know you as an able friend representing a friendly country to which we are bound by many ties of friendship and commonality of views. I am fully convinced that the work of the Council will be successful under your skilful guidance.

I also take pleasure in conveying thanks and commendations to the representative of Hungary, my colleague and friend, Ambassador Erdos, for his excellent guidance of the work of the Council last month.

Once again, the Security Council is faced with an anomalous situation as a result of the deportation of almost 400 Palestinian civilians from their homes, villages and territory. They have been blindfolded and deported by buses and then left in harsh weather conditions in Lebanese territory. This has happened despite the fact that Lebanon had already announced its refusal to receive them on its territory. This shows blatant disregard by Israel for international law, the principle of sovereignty of States, and human rights in particular as enshrined in the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is an act in total defiance of the United Nations and its Charter, and a challenge to the Security Council, its resolutions and its authority.

The fact that this takes place under the eyes of the whole world while the peace talks continue in Washington, is further proof that Israel, in pursuing such policies, is not interested in the establishment of just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region but wants to impose its peace by occupying other people's land by force. It wants to impose a *fait accompli* on all the States and peoples of the region regardless of the disastrous consequences of such a policy on the possibilities for coexistence in the foreseeable future.

The Lebanese Government has frequently condemned the Israeli policy of deporting Palestinian citizens, which is a breach of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, stipulating that civilians should not be deported, whatever the cause. My Government condemns this Israeli policy of repression, which flagrantly violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Lebanese State and is increasing tension in the region as a whole. This is in contravention of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council including 607 (1988), 608 (1988), 636 (1989), 641 (1989), 681 (1990), 694 (1991) and 726 (1992).

The nagging question one must ask is: just how long will the Security Council allow Israel to exempt itself from contemporary international principles - especially since Israel has already defied all those resolutions condemning the deportation of civilians and calling for the return of the deportees to their homes. It is time for this Council to take practical steps to put an end to Israel's repeated and flagrant violations of international law, to enable all the deportees to return,

and thereby put an end to this shameful practice pursued as a matter of policy by the Israeli authorities.

Lebanon calls on the Council to exercise its authority, including the authority conferred by Chapter VII of the Charter, to adopt the draft resolution now before us and to ensure implementation of all other previous resolutions in this respect.

The Security Council's impotence and leniency towards Israeli policies in the past have further complicated the situation in the region, resulting in violations of this population's rights to life, freedom, property and self-determination. It is ironic indeed, that the Security Council in particular and the United Nations in general have been totally excluded from those very efforts which have been going on for more than a year, and aim at achieving a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict at a time when the Security Council is increasingly involved in the search for solutions to all regional and local problems in the four corners of the earth.

Lebanon, which has suffered 16 long years of bloody turmoil and been invaded twice by Israel, is now doing its utmost through its people and its Government to re-establish normality in all its territory. But Israel persists in its policy of subversion against Lebanon, against the Lebanese entity and institutions, and despite the reassuring declarations made by Israeli authorities from time to time.

Besides being a breach of international law, the gravity of this deportation of Palestinian citizens has been compounded by the fact that these people were deported into Lebanese territory irrespective of the opposition voiced by the Lebanese authorities. This constitutes yet another violation and serious breach of the principle of sovereignty and the rights of States. Above and beyond the illegal nature of these actions, their consequences on the political level are serious indeed with respect to the internal situation in Lebanon and to the peace process as a whole.

Lebanon has participated in the peace process and the negotiations on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and on the basis of the invitation extended to it. We have done so, in the hope of securing Israel's total withdrawal from southern Lebanon, pursuant to Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and as an essential first step towards the establishment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. Now, after 14 months of negotiation, we find ourselves still marking time, in square one, without any tangible progress. Instead of taking advantage of the opportune moment to build confidence between all parties, we find Israel pursuing its repressive and aggressive policies in the occupied territories and in Lebanon, and frenetically going full steam ahead in the imposition of a *fait accompli* by building settlements which serve as obstacles to the achievement of progress at the peace talks.

This mass deportation by Israel yesterday gravely jeopardizes the peace process. It proves that the concept and obligations of peace have not yet penetrated into the minds of the Israeli decision makers and have not yet had any effect on their practices. The steps they have taken recently prove their continued reliance on the use of force to impose a *fait accompli* both in the occupied territories and *vis-à-vis* neighbouring countries. Yesterday's brutal violation of Lebanon's sovereignty is a prime example of Israel's dealings with sovereign countries in complete contempt for international norms.

Israel's latest action has the potential for grave consequences at the local level. It frustrates my Government's endeavours to restore a normalcy to our country and to proceed with reconstruction efforts. Further, it reaffirms the urgency of the need to liberate southern Lebanon from the Israeli occupation. In fact, what Israel calls its "security zone" has become the base from which it threatens Lebanese security and impedes Lebanon's reconstruction efforts. At the same time, by choosing Lebanon in particular to expel the Palestinian civilians, Israel has renewed Lebanese fears of the settlement of Palestinians on our national soil as a solution to the Palestine problem. Lebanon has frequently expressed in all international forums its total rejection of concepts that represent an imminent danger to the Lebanese social structure and contradict the right of self-determination which applies to the Palestinians as a people with a national identity.

For all the foregoing reasons, the Lebanese Government requests the Security Council to enforce its resolution 425 (1978), which stipulates that Israel should withdraw to its international borders so that Lebanon may exercise its sovereignty over all its territory.

Action by the Security Council towards this end would assist the peace process and not impede it, because it would remove one of the major obstacles, create a climate that would be conducive to the success of that process, and prove to Israel and the world that the implementation of international legality is the only solution which will establish security on both sides of the border; an objective not realized by the Israeli occupation

and practices. This would eliminate friction in a very sensitive area where numerous antagonistic and potentially explosive elements coexist. Finally, if peace is to be the future of the region, any delay in achieving it will only increase the number of victims, as well as losses and tensions in the area, which has suffered for a long time from destruction and aggression.

We repeat our call to the Security Council to perform its role in safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, to apply international and humanitarian law and to ensure that the Palestinians deported from their territory are enabled to return to their homes, even if this involves the application of the stipulations of Chapter VII of the Charter. It is hoped that such decisive action will put an end to Israel's unjust status, which enables it to break international law and norms with impunity, to defy the resolutions of the Security Council and, in particular to go unchecked in its refusal to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978).